



PLACER COUNTY
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PRESS RELEASE

Date/Time of Release: **November 10, 2005 / 4 PM**
Date/Time of Occurrence: **November 10, 2005 / 3 PM**
Nature of Call: **Attorney Arrested / Private Investigator Sought**
Location of Call: **Placer County**
Case Number: **SO-05-13627**
Released by: **George Malim, Lieutenant 530-889-7862**

SHERIFF EDWARD N. BONNER RELEASES THE FOLLOWING:

An extensive two-month investigation by Placer County Sheriff's Detectives has led to the arrest of a Sacramento attorney. The private investigator is being sought on an arrest warrant.

Investigators sought and received arrest warrants for Lawrence Samelson, 60, a Sacramento attorney, and Ronald Scott, 60, an Auburn private investigator. The warrants charge each man with four counts of conspiracy and nineteen counts of grand theft. Samelson was located at his Sacramento office and arrested. He was taken to the Placer County Jail and is being held on \$250 thousand bail. Investigators were unable to locate Scott and believe he is now trying to flee the area. The warrant for Scott has a bail amount of \$1 million.

Scott managed a law office by the name of Atwood Legal Center in Auburn. The business was under Samelson's name. Scott would represent himself as an attorney and tell his victims either he or Samelson would represent them. Scott handled most of the cases and, in most instances, Samelson would not even be aware of what cases the office was handling. Samelson would receive payment from Scott for services he never provided.

Victims would receive legal advice from Scott believing they were receiving sound legal advice from an attorney. Scott would hire a low-wage attorney for court appearances and pocket the rest of the retainer. Investigators estimate that victims lost in excess of \$250 thousand.

It is believed that Scott has run this type of scam for several years under at least six different fictitious business names.

Scott is described as a white male, 5'10", 200 lbs., with brown hair and eyes. He may be driving a late 90's brown Ford Taurus or a white Ford Explorer with no plates. Anyone with information on Scott's whereabouts is urged to contact the Placer County Sheriff's Department at 530-889-7800 or their local law enforcement agency.

No Photos of Samelson or Scott are available at this time.

Copies of this press release are available on the Placer County Sheriff's Department website at <http://www.placer.ca.gov/sheriff>